Some Account of the

TRYALS

And Condemnation of

Five Notorious JESUITS,
Popiſh PRIESTS & TRAYTORS.

(*VIZ.*)

THOMAS WHITE, *alias* WHITEBREAD,
WILLIAM HARCOURT,
JOHN FENWICK,
JOHN GAVERN, *alias* GAWEN,
ANTHONY TURNER.
and
Mr. LANGHORN *the Counſellor.*

Found Guilty of *HIGH-TREASON.*

For conſpiring to Murder the KING,
Subvert the Government, root out the Proteſtant Religion, and eſtabliſh *Popery*, &c.

On a fair Tryal by virtue of a Commiſſion of *Oyer* and *Terminer* at the *Old-Bailey*, June *the* 13*th. and* 14*th.* 1679

LONDON,
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AFter the Commission read, and the Juries Impannelled, and their appearances Recorded, Six Prisoners were Arraigned, *viz.* *Thomas White* alias *Whitebread*, apprehended on the first discovery of the Plot, a little Lean very old man in mean Gray Cloaths, who was Provincial of the *English* Jesuits, and should have been, (had their Cursed Design hit) Bishop of *Canterbury*; *William Harcourt* taken not above five Weeks ago near *Long-Acre*, an Ancient Tall man in Black Habit with a Perriwig; a person though no good Orator, very Politick, and often mentioned in *Coleman*'s Tryal and Letters as a grand Instrument of mischief; *John Fenwick* a middle-Aged man, somewhat Gentilely Dressed in a lightish Wig, and Gray Campaine Coat; *John Gavern* alias *Gawen* a Short well-set man in Gray Cloaths, and looking very plain and ordinary as a Country-man, but in truth a person of Exquisite parts and Oratory, who mannaged almost the whole Defence on the behalf of his Fellow Prisoners with a great deal of Briskness, Subtilty and fine Language; *Anthony Turner* a person in Mean Habit, short Perriwig; one that

that ſaid little for himſelf; and *James Corker*, who preſenting a Petition, alledging that he had not his Witneſſes ready, was put off as to his Tryal till the next day; ſo that the Court at preſent proceeded only with the five firſt named.

Their Tryal was very tedious, laſting from before nine a Clock in the Morning, to ſeven or Eight in the Evening; the particulars whereof we do not here pretend fully and exactly to relate, as well becauſe 'tis not to be done in a ſingle Sheet, as eſpecially for that we are aſſured there will ſhortly by the ſpecial care of Authority be a compleat and punctual Account publiſhed, to which we refer the more Curious Reader, only deſigning here to give a brief but true Narrative of the moſt obſervable points for the preſent ſatisfaction of the common people, that they may know what Juſtice was done them, and what in general was proved upon them.

They were all five Charged in one Indictment ſpecially drawn for High Treaſon, and aggravated with all the moſt Horrid Circumſtances immaginable. Firſt, that they Conſpired to Kill and Deſtroy His Sacred Majeſty, and this declared in a threefold Overt act, by Hire-

ing *Grove* and *Pickering* (the first for fifteen hundred Pounds; the second for thirty thousand Masses to Shoot or Stab him, by Hiring four *Irish* Ruffians to Murther His Majesty at *Windsor*; by bribing *Wakeman* for fifteen thousand Pounds to Poyson him. Secondly, To Subvert the Government, Extirpate the Protestant Religion, and Introduce Popery, *&c.* Their Jury were very Substantial Gentlemen, and they made Peremptory Challenges to all that had been on the Tryals of *Coleman*, or any others concerned in this Plot.

Old Father *Whitebread* and *Fenwick* on their Arraignment insisted that they had formerly been brought to Tryal, and ought not to be twice put in Jeopardy of their Lives for the same Fact: But this vain pretence was refuted, by shewing that though they were once called to the Bar, yet the Jury was never Charged with them, and consequently they were never in any such Jeopardy; and besides here was much new Matter in their Indictment, nor had they any Record to shew that they vvere so formerly Arraigned; vvith vvhich seeming to be satisfied, they (vvith the rest) pleaded not Guilty.

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As to their Traiterous Deſign of Murthering the King, it was proved upon four of them: that at a general Conſult of Jeſuits 24*th*. *April* 1678. they ſigned a Reſolution to that purpoſe; that *Grove* and *Pickering* were entertained to Kill the King, and what reward they were to have. That four *Iriſh* men were to do the ſame Villanous Act at *Windſor*, and that Fourſcore Pounds were alotted them for that ſervice, and ſome ſmall Addition made by *Coleman* for Expedition. That *Whitebread* and *Harcourt* were particularly and principally concerned in theſe Tranſactions, with ſeveral other Intrigues too tedious here to be ſpecified.

It was further proved that *Gavern* had been appointed to mannage Affairs in and about *Staffordſhire*, and one of the Evidences (who had not before appeared againſt others, nor was Acquainted formerly with Dr. *Oates* or Mr. *Bedloe*. ſo that his Teſtimony was wholly new, which he very Modeſtly and Judiciouſly delivered) Proved that the ſaid Priſoner had held Conſultations in the Countrey for Murthering the King, and Subverting the Government, *&c*. which was likewiſe confirmed by another; ſo that upon the whole matter there were

were four Witneſſes againſt one of the Priſoners, three againſt another, and againſt all of them two each Crime, being all of the ſame nature and Horrid Intention of deſtroying the King, and Subverting the Government.

There was likewiſe a Letter produced, and proved by a very worthy Gentleman to have been taken amongſt *Harcourts* Papers, that purported to be a Summons to a Jeſuit to appear at the ſaid Conſult or Congregation of that Society, on the 24*th* of *April*; in which were Directions to this effect, *That they ſhould not come up before the day, nor appear much abroad in Town, for fear of a diſcovery of the Deſign, which its own nature required Secrecy:* This Letter the ſaid *Harcourt* owned to have been written by a Friend of his, but would have avoided the true meaning thereof with a forc'd Interpretation, that ſuch Deſign intended nothing but chuſing an Officer of their Brotherhood: But the words could not with any tolerable ſenſe be capable of ſuch Conſtruction: And therefore after all the fair Gloſſes they had put upon it, the ſame was referred to the conſideration of the Jury.

The Priſoners made a great deal of ſtir, and bad

had procured divers persons from St. *Omers*, all Roman Catholicks, and most of them young Popish Students there, to invalidate the Evidence of one of the Principal Evidences; But as they did not well agree in their Tale, but appeared to have been brought hither meerly to serve the Prisoners, so the same was utterly confuted by Corrobarating Evidence for the King. For whereas those young Sophisters (ready enough to assert any thing that their Superiours would suggest or have them to do) maintained that Mr. *Oates* was at St *Omers* all along throughout *April* and *May* 1678. and so could not be at the Consult on the 24*th*. of *April*. He on the other side produced several Substantial Credible Witnesses that saw him then in and about *London*, and particularly one Gentleman Swore, that on the first *Monday* in that *May* he Dined with him: Nay one that was himself a Papist, and supposed a Priest, Swore that he then saw him at *Arundel* House: Nor were they more lucky in several other of their Allegations, which occasioned sometimes great Shouts from the people, to see how industriously, and yet how vainly they went about to Justify themselves with pretences equally foolish and false.

Never had Malefactors a more fair and equal Tryal, nor any Court of Justice more patience to hear and examine all that the Prisoners could alleadge for themselves; nor was the method of proceeding less mild and and gentle. For whereas they might all have been dealt withall, and justly Condemned for Treason as Priests, that was not insisted on, so moderate are Protestants against punishing any meerly for being Priests, though that be most reasonably made Capital by our Laws; no cause have they therefore, or any of their Faction be-

yond

yond the Seas, to complain of harsh usage or Clamour about Persecution: It was not for their Religion they were tryed, but for their abominable Treasons which were most evidently made out against them.

So that after a full hearing of all the Witnesses they could produce, (though all Romanists, who yet were Impartially heard and received) and whatever they had to say for themselves (which rather consisted in flourishes and little Captious Tricks of Subtilty, than any solid Defence to the matters they stood Charged with,) they were all most justly, and to the great satisfaction of all unprejudiced Auditors, Convicted of the High Treason they were Indicted for.

The next day came on Mr. *Langhorn* the Counsel'or, who should have been Advocate-General to the Popish-Army: It was proved that the Commissions were lodg'd in his hands, and several other horrid things that he was concern'd in; and particularly, that he was so cursedly zealous, That when he was told Sir *George Wakeman* would not accept 10000*l.* to poison the King, but expected more: he said, He was a pitiful narrow-Soul'd Fellow, that would insist on Money for a Work that was so advantageous to the Cause; That any good Catholick ought to do it *gratis*. He brought a Regiment of young Seminaries from St. *Omers*, to prove Mr. *Oates* to have been there at the time he mentioned the Transactions to have been at *London*, but as they appear'd to come over only to help him and the rest out in this pinch, so what they alledged was sufficiently disproved by the Oaths of divers Persons of worth and credit. Whereupon after a long hearing of all his Pretensions, he was convict: And the other five being brought down, they all received Sentence together to be Drawn, Hang'd, and Quarter'd. And then the Court Adjourned till after the Term.

FINIS.